



NEWS RELEASE

IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

The Idaho Water Center, 322 E. Front St., Boise ID -- Phone: (208) 287-4800 FAX: (208) 287-6700
www.idwr.idaho.gov

Release 2005-9

Water Board Backs Nez Perce Agreement Minimum Stream Flows

For Immediate Release
Boise, Idaho – February 8, 2005

For Media Information Contact:
Michael Keckler – (208) 287-4828

The Idaho Water Resource Board today passed a resolution adopting the proposed minimum stream flows contained in the Snake River water rights agreement designed to settle the Nez Perce Tribe's water right claims in the Snake River Basin. The resolution will now be forwarded to the Idaho Legislature, which will soon consider approval of the Agreement, as will the Tribe.

The Agreement includes establishing minimum stream flow water rights on more than 200 streams in the Salmon and Clearwater basins. The Water Board will hold those water rights in trust on behalf of the people of Idaho.

Today's vote comes after a series of public meetings held late last week in Challis, Riggins and Lewiston, which gave the public a final opportunity to see the proposed minimum stream flows for themselves and to ask questions.

These minimum stream flows will not affect existing water rights and are subordinate to all current and future domestic, municipal, commercial and industrial uses.

The Nez Perce Agreement has already been approved both by Congress and President George W. Bush.

More information about the Agreement and the proposed minimum stream flows is available on IDWR's website: www.idwr.idaho.gov

-end-